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the animal with a number of delicate filamentous pseudopods projected from the processes of the disk. The pseudopods as seen, and as represented by Sandahl, are like those of the Foraminifera.

In the single-chambered character and structure of the case, *Astrorhiza* resembles the fresh-water *Diffugia*, but differs in having many orifices, to protrude the pseudopods, instead of a single one.

Notes on the Character of the Lower Silurian Slate at their Outcrops.—Prof. FRAZER remarked that a fine-grained hydromica slate from a point on the Peach Bottom Railroad, about five miles from York, had been submitted to Dr. GENTH for an investigation of the amount of its alkaline constituents.

The specimen was of greenish-gray color and semi-unctuous lustre, and contained, in a chloritic mass, fine scales of mica, and exceedingly fine particles of a mineral of apparently metallic lustre.

The water gave	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.36 per cent.
Potash	"	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.05 "
Soda	"	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.75 "

With a decided trace of lithia (possibly from contained Lepidolite).

Dr. Genth adds, "Taking the potash as belonging to Damourite, we should have nearly 9 per cent. of it; and the soda to paragonite there would be 9.6 per cent."

The mass of this rock is chloritic while the small speck of pearly mica-like mineral might be Euphyllite, or (in view of the per cent. of Li) Cookeite. In the former case both the K and Na would be associated together in the same constituent, while the Li would remain unaccounted for. Vogtite, Margarodite, or the species examined by Smith & Brush, from Litchfield, Connecticut, and which was intermediate between Margarodite and Paragonite, might be represented.

But the plan proposed by J. D. Dana, of characterizing these partially decomposed slates simply as hydro-mica slates, seems to fulfil every requisite of accuracy.

MARCH 23.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

"On Buteonine Subgenus *Craxirex*, Gould." By Robert Ridgway.

"On *Nisus Cooperi*, Bonaparte, and *N. Gundlachi*, Lawrence." By Robert Ridgway.